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Evaluation of the effect of feeder space in the homogeneity and productive performance in growing pigs.

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INTRODUCTION

The homogeneity is a critical point of pig production, reduces variation in days to slaughter and helps conform to the specifications of the slaughterhouse.

There are multiple factors that explain this variability; one is the feeding, interaction process between animal, feed and environment, such as feeding installations and competition for the feeder space.

Objective

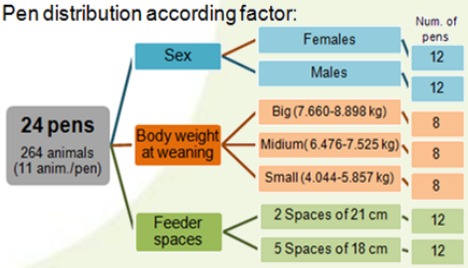
Determine if there are differences in the homogeneity of the batch (body weight) and average daily gain (ADG) depending on if the animals have been fed with two spaces feeder or five spaces ones during growing period.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Experimental study

• Two phases where BW register takes place.

Pen distribution according factor:

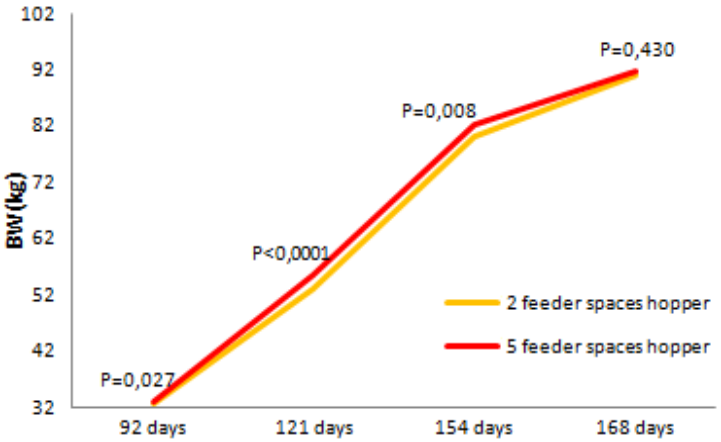


• It is done a study of wounds following the WQ® protocol in growing phase.

RESULTS

Feeder space

• **BW and ADG are higher** at animals fed with **5 spaces hoppers**.



• The **coefficient of variation** (CV) have a trend that **becomes significant during the growing** (P value: 0.89→ 0.13 → 0.03 → 0.02), reflecting higher homogeneity for the animals raised in the 5 feeder space hoppers.

Sex

• **Only at the end of growing differences** in the BW and ADG are **attributable to sex** significantly (P values at 154 and 168 days are 0.012 and 0.0002 respectively).

Segregation for weaning weight

• **Segregation by weight has no effect** on the BW or ADG (P > 0.05) in growing.

Study of wounds

• There are not **significant differences** during the first three weeks of growing, but so there are **after three months**.

Time in growing	Index for wounds (I_w)		P value
	2 feeder spaces	5 feeder spaces	
3 weeks	11.11	6.25	0.69
3 months	18.86	5.16	0.01

CONCLUSIONS

➢ **While segregation for weaning weight does not affect the homogeneity nor the ADG and the sex factor has no significant effect on them until quite into the growing period, feeder space does affect the productive performance, the homogeneity of batch and the level of wounds in pigs of growing period.**

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